

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
/034 W

-----131928Z 052774 /47

R 131617Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4180  
INFO USDAO ABIDJAN  
USDAO MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2190

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, UV  
SUBJECT: VOLTAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS TRAINING FOR SEVEN  
YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS.

1. IN A LETTER FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE VOLTAN  
GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED TRAINING IN THE U.S. FOR SEVEN  
YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS: TWO FOR ENGINEERING, TWO  
FOR COMMANDO/RANGER TRAINING, AND THREE FOR PILOT  
TRAINING.

2. I MET TODAY WITH CHIEF OF STAFF LT. COL LACANAPE  
LAMIZANA AND MAJ. SORE OUEDRAOGO TO GET MORE DETAILS  
ON THE REQUEST. THEY SAID THAT THE TRAINING  
ENVISAGED WAS TO BE FOR NEW OFFICERS OF SUB-LIEUTENANT  
AND LIEUTENANT RANK. THE VOLTAN  
ARMED FORCES FEEL A NEED FOR  
BOTH THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ABILITY THAT WOULD RESULT FROM SUCH TRAINING, THEY  
SAID. LT. COL LAMIZANA ALSO RECALLED THAT THEY HAD  
REQUESTED SOME TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES FOR  
MILITARY OFFICERS IN 1974 BUT THAT NOTHING HAD RESULTED.  
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3. ENGINEERING TRAINING: THEY HAVE IN MIND A COURSE IN  
ENGINEERING AT FORT BELVOIR LASTING FOR ONE YEAR,  
WITH EMPHASIS ON ROAD BUILDING IF POSSIBLE.

4. COMMANDO/RANGER TRAINING: BEYOND SAYING  
THAT THEY WERE INTERESTED IN THE OFFICERS HAVING "A

COMPLETE COURSE", THEY DID NOT HAVE PRECISE IDEAS ON EMPHASIS OR ON DURATION OF TRAINING.

5. PILOT TRAINING: AN EQUIVALENT TO "SECOND DEGREE" TRAINING IN THE FRENCH SYSTEM IS WHAT IS DESIRED. THE THREE PILOTS WILL FINISH TWO YEARS OF TRAINING IN MOROCCO (ONE YEAR OF INSTRUCTION ON THE GROUND AND ONE YEAR OF FLIGHT TRAINING) NEXT DECEMBER. THE DURATION OF TRAINING IN THE U.S. COULD BE WORKED OUT IN LATER DISCUSSIONS, ACCORDING TO LT. COL. LAMIZANA.

6. I HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THIS REQUEST. SINCE THE U.S. STOPPED TRAINING FOR VOLTAN MILITARY SOME YEARS BACK WE HAVE HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH MILITARY OFFICERS (EXCEPT THOSE SECONDED TO CIVILIAN JOBS). A NEW GENERATION OF OFFICERS IS COMING UP THAT WE DON'T KNOW AT ALL. WE CANNOT BE SO CONFIDENT OF THE FUTURE OF CIVILIAN RULE IN UPPER VOLTA THAT WE RESTRICT OUR RELATIONSHIPS ONLY TO CIVILIAN SIDE OF THE VOLTAN HOUSE. BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONTACT STRAIGHT-LINE MILITARY OFFICERS WITHOUT SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT, AND AT PRESENT WE HAVE ZERO. THUS THE MODEST TRAINING PROGRAM THE VOLTANS ARE REQUESTING WOULD HAVE A VERY USEFUL POLITICAL EFFECT.

7. FOR USDAO'S ABIDJAN AND MONROVIA: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSEMBLING INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE COURSES FOR DISCUSSIONS DURING YOUR NEXT VISIT HERE.  
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## Message Attributes

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